

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, June 28, 2005 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Charles Pappas, Mike Rademacher, John Sanchez (last part of the meeting), Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Associates: Guillermo Bahamon, Erik Moore

**1. Members of the committee welcomed Joe Cahill, the newest member of TAC.**

**2. The minutes of 5/24/2005 were approved unanimously**

Erik Moore, Ralph Elwell and Guillermo Bahamon arrived.

**3. Downing Square**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the raised crosswalk has arrived and is now in the DPW yard. The town is waiting for some signage to arrive. There was a brief discussion of the proper road markings to use for the raised crosswalk. Scott Smith suggested using the MUTCD guidelines. We expect that the earliest installation date will be about 7/11.

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**4. East Arlington Parking Study**

Scott Smith reviewed the working group recommendations and the community meeting that was held on 6/23. He reported that the areas of contention among residents seemed to be

- whether parking should be restricted to one-side of the side streets
- the extent to which parking for local business employees should be accommodated on the side streets.

He noted that the effort may reveal inequities in other parts of town (for example, in the Center many streets have a two-hour limit, while some, such as Warren, are unrestricted, and fill with vehicles). Therefore, it is important that a policy in East Arlington set a good precedent.

Charles Pappas suggested that businesses with extra spaces (e.g. Walgreens?) might be willing to help.

We agreed that it would be reasonable to post handouts from the meeting on the TAC website, noting that the 4-hour limit is likely to change to a 2-hour limit.

**5. Massachusetts Avenue Corridor**

Kevin O'Brien reported that the immediate next step is to make the modifications to the cover letter, and have it signed by the Town Manager. He also presented a proposal for reconstructing the intersection of Mass. Ave and Grafton Street, to remove some of the expanse of pavement at that location (Grafton Street is one-lane and one-way away from Mass Ave, but is some 50-feet wide at the intersection with Mass. Ave.) The reason we are not using the State's Footprint Program for funding is that Footprint applications seem to be going very slowly.

Kevin also reported there is \$7K left on the VHB contract, with another \$25 K from CDBG available for the next fiscal year. He recommended the following next steps:

- Finish cover letter and send to Mass Highway
- Respond to Mass Highway concerns
- Start on the enhancements application.

## 6. Status of voted actions

Actions in the Russell Street area are awaiting water main replacement, but should occur this summer. Stop signs at Webster and Philips are up. There is a possible zoning violation (tree obstructing visibility) at Brunswick and Pleasant Streets. Kevin O'Brien will ask the building inspector to look into it.

## 7. Member Choice: Summer/Victoria crosswalk

Ed Starr presented the issue as a crosswalk with limited visibility on a heavily traveled street. It receives significant usage. Recommendations were as follows:

- Crosswalk ahead signs within about 200 feet approaching from the east and west
- Trim branches covering the crosswalk sign on the south side
- Place crosswalk sign facing west on the back of the existing sign on the north side
- Consider placing a bollard at the crosswalk
- Thermoplastic crosswalk

To this, we agreed to add the installation of new ramps if necessary. These recommendations were unanimously approved.

Kevin O'Brien departed and John Sanchez arrived.

## 8. Department News

Jim McHugh reported that the traffic monitor has been in place on Churchill Avenue for 2 weeks. Temporary advisory speed signs (20mph) will be placed by Res Staff on Lowell Street near the Reservoir during times when the reservoir is open.

Lt McHugh asked TAC members to report signs blocked by tree limbs to him.

John Sanchez reported that about 60% of the crosswalks are done. Thermoplastic might start on the night of 6/28 (if it doesn't rain). This will include repairs to the failed thermoplastic. We expect to complete the uncontrolled crosswalks on roads over 10,000 ADT in thermoplastic this year.

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Gas mains are being replaced on Summer Street. Better lane definition with paint is planned for Park Avenue, with 16' wide travel lanes.

## 9. Capital Projects

Ed Starr reported that the capital planning process starts in August, with approval at the following year's Town Meeting. Downing Square would be about \$70,000. Scott Smith asked whether the resurfacing of the eastern end of Broadway was in any plan. John Sanchez reported that it was.

## **10. Projects**

Joe Cahill volunteered to take the lead on the request for Fisher and Fayette.

## **11. Dallin School**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the Dallin School recommendations are on the agenda for the 7/11 Board of Selectmen meeting. Ed Starr indicated that materials for the Board should be ready by 7/7.

## **12. Library Way Crosswalk**

Mike Rademacher reported that Howard Muise has agreed to help with this effort. He said there were no easy fixes, and solicited suggestions. Scott Smith suggested increasing the width of the crosswalk to match that of the crosswalk by Town Hall and trimming vegetation on the median to improve visibility between westbound motorists and northbound pedestrians. Guillermo Bahamon suggested education/enforcement on the crosswalk law.

## **13. Multi-use Update**

Scott Smith reported that he and Jack Johnson (chair of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee) met with Ron Santosouso to identify specific locations for the two directional signs in Arlington Center. He showed committee members a mockup of the sign. Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that she met with Anne Lusk to paint the stencils in the Center and at Alewife.

## **14. Vision 2020 Survey Results**

Ed Starr presented the transportation section of the Vision 2020 survey results, noting that many people took the time to write comments on the Mass Ave/ Route 60 intersection. Particular concerns included the left turn signals and right turn on red.

## **15. Town Day**

Scott Smith has submitted the application for a TAC booth at Town Day. Town Day will be on 9/17/2005.

## **The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM**

### **Handouts:**

Agenda package including agenda, list of TAC members, e-mail from Bill McKersie regarding the Summer/Victoria crosswalk, proposed actions regarding the Summer/Victoria crosswalk, action list, project list, and summarized results from the transportation section of the Vision 2020 survey - from Ed Starr

Minutes from May 2005 - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Draft East Arlington Parking Study working group recommendations and survey - from Scott Smith